



July 2001

DE Directorate's Col. Beason receives Legion of Merit at retirement

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KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. – Col. J. Douglas Beason received the Legion of Merit in ceremonies after retiring as commander, Phillips Research Site and deputy director, Directed Energy Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, with 24 years of military service.

Beason was cited for leadership which resulted in a \$30 million tri-service national Directed Energy Center being established with the Air Force as the lead service. Within two months of becoming site commander, the 1977 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate led the research site through a complete overhaul, earning an "Excellent" rating on the first Operational Readiness Inspection in nine years.

Beason previously worked for the president's science advisor at the White House Science Office as a key staffer for aeronautics, space science and technology at the Department of Defense, Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He also served as a technical team member and liaison to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, representing the assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Joint Defense and Energy departments Stockpile Stewardship Programs.

Beason served on a vice presidential commission developing plans for a return to the moon and eventually Mars; as a deputy director for Advanced Weapons and head of the Plasma Physics Division here; and as director of faculty research and an instructor and professor at the Air Force Academy. He has conducted research in nuclear effects, high-energy plasmas, lasers, particle beams and high-power microwaves for national programs.

Beason, who has a doctorate in physics and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, has written more than 50 scientific and technical papers and wrote or co-authored more than 30 novels and short stories.

Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, retired, former U.S. Air Force chief of staff presented the medal. @



PHILLIPS RESEARCH SITE COMMANDER RETIRES – Col. J. Douglas Beason, commander of Phillips Research Site and deputy director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate, left, turns the tables on Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman, retired, former USAF chief of staff. During Beason's retirement ceremony Friday, the colonel presented the general with a book coauthored by Beason. The general officiated at Beason's retirement and presented him with a Legion of Merit medal.